ARSENAL PULP PRESS

FALL 2021

A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

DEAR FRIENDS:

I write this as we are coming off the extraordinary high of having had two of our books make it to the finale on this year's *Canada Reads* competition on the CBC: in the end, Joshua Whitehead's *Jonny Appleseed*, defended by actor Devery Jacobs, prevailed over Francesca Ekwuyasi's *Butter Honey Pig Bread*, championed by chef and TV host Roger Mooking. It was one of those incredible is-this-really-happening moments, made all the more remarkable by the fact that both books were acclaimed debut novels written by authors who are members of both the LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC communities—two constituencies who are the heart and soul of our publishing program.

It's extra gratifying that this has happened in 2021, which marks the fiftieth anniversary of Arsenal Pulp Press. In 1971, a group of university students, writers, and assorted literary misfits created a publishing house that was unapologetically West Coast in its temperament and anti-establishment sensibility. This group included great underappreciated writers such as D.M. Fraser and Jon Furberg, as well as the brothers Osborne—Tom and my mentor Stephen, who went on to found the first-rate literary magazine *Geist*. Pulp's daring, anarchic approach to publishing back in the day was a powerful inspiration to me, and something that I aspire to uphold in our publishing choices to this day.

As we emerge from the darkness of the past pandemic year, I hope we all choose to hold on to the lessons we've learned that have made us stronger, kinder, and more resilient. For us here at Arsenal Pulp Press, we are doing just that, all while thinking wistfully about our past and imagining (and realizing) a future full of more brilliant and brave books for you.

With love and continued thanks for your support,

Brian Lam, Publisher

See our Canada Reads *finalists on page 14.*

Arsenal Pulp Press gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the British Columbia Arts Council for its publishing program, and the Government of Canada, and the Government of British Columbia (through the Book Publishing Tax Credit Program), for its publishing activities.

Arsenal Pulp Press acknowledges the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ilwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, custodians of the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories where our office is located. We pay respect to their histories, traditions, and continuous living cultures and commit to accountability, respectful relations, and friendship.

NEW RELEASE

For Laika

The Dog Who Learned the Names of the Stars

KAI CHENG THOM
ILLUSTRATED BY KAI YUN CHING

The heart-rending story of Laika, the brave canine space traveller.

By two of the co-creators of the acclaimed children's book *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea*: the moving and beautifully told story of Laika, the dog who learned the names of the stars. Laika is an orphaned stray dog who lives in the streets of Moscow in the 1950s in the then Soviet Union. Although she is loved by her pack, Laika longs to one day learn the names of the stars, since she knows that all dogs become stars when they die—including her parents. One day, a Russian scientist named Vlad offers Laika the chance to travel to the stars by helping him with an important experiment, an event that will change the entire world.

Part fable, part dog story, part history lesson, the tale of Laika's brave and loving heart will captivate young and older readers alike, offering important lessons about world peace, science, and the deep bonds between humans and every other creature with whom we share the planet.

Ages 3 to 8.

KAI CHENG THOM is a writer and community worker who loves lasagna, stargazing, and animals. Kai Cheng is also a well-known writer and speaker on the topics of diversity, justice, conflict resolution, and love. Her previous books include the children's picture book *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* (page 26), the essay collection *I Hope We Choose Love* (page 20), and the poetry book *a place called No Homeland* (page 25).
kaichengthom.com

KAI YUN CHING is a community-based organizer and educator. They are the co-illustrator of the children's picture book *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* (page 26), and they edited and published *Children's Stories*, a collection of tales written by children, with the publishing collective Quilted Creatures in 2016.

ALSO AVAILABLE

PAGE 26

ISBN 978-1-55152-862-5
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-863-2
9 X 12 | 40 PP |
PAPER OVER BOARDS
$19.95 CAN / $18.95 USA

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS (3 – 8) /
JUVENILE FICTION
JUV002070 / JUV039030 / JUV036010 / JUV016050
PUB MONTH: OCTOBER

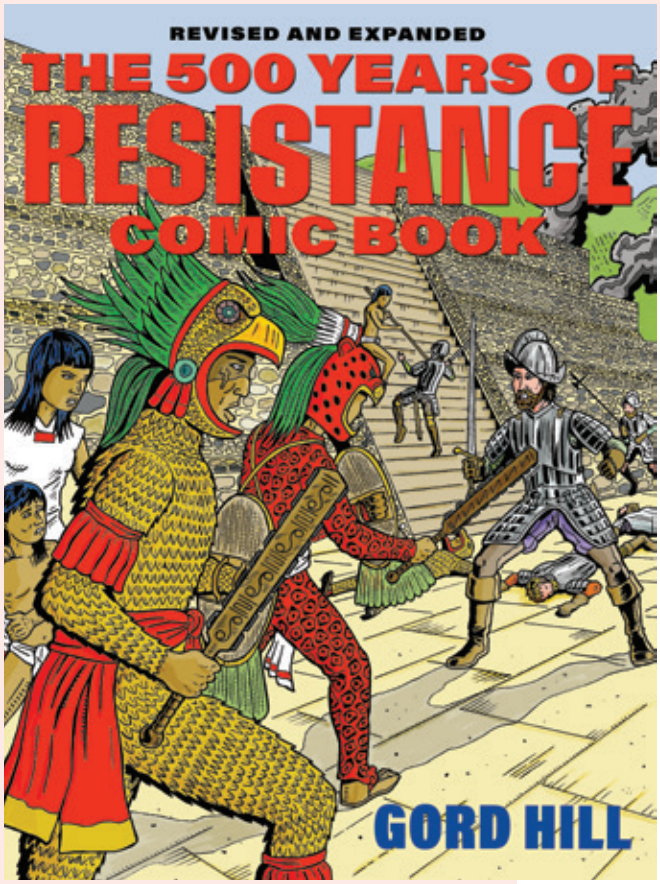
ISBN 978-1-55152-862-5

NEW RELEASE

The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book

Revised and Expanded

GORD HILL
FOREWORD BY PAMELA PALMATER



A revised and expanded version of Gord Hill's seminal illustrated history of Indigenous struggles in the Americas, available in colour for the first time.

When it was first published in 2010, *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book* was heralded as a groundbreaking illustrated history of Indigenous activism and resistance in the Americas over the previous 500 years, from first contact to present day. Eleven years later, author and artist Gord Hill has revised and expanded the book, which is now available in colour for the first time.

The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book powerfully portrays flashpoints in history when Indigenous peoples have risen up and fought back against colonizers and other oppressors. Events depicted include the Spanish conquest of the Aztec, Mayan, and Inca empires; the 1680 Pueblo Revolt in New Mexico; the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890; the resistance of the Great Plains peoples in the nineteenth century; and more recently, the Idle No More protests supporting Indigenous sovereignty and rights in 2012 and 2013, and the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016.

With strong, plain language and evocative illustrations, this revised and expanded edition of *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book* reveals the tenacity, perseverance, and resilience of Indigenous peoples as they have endured 500-plus years of genocide, massacre, torture, rape, displacement, and assimilation: a necessary antidote to conventional histories of the Americas.

The book includes a foreword by Mi'kmaq lawyer, professor, and political commentator Pamela Palmater.

GORD HILL is a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation whose previous books include *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book* (page 17) and *The Antifa Comic Book* (page 17). He has been involved in Indigenous peoples' and antiglobalization movements since 1990. He lives in British Columbia.

PAMELA PALMATER is a Mi'kmaq citizen and member of the Eel River Bar First Nation in northern New Brunswick. She has been a practising lawyer for twenty-two years and is currently a professor and the Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University.

ALSO AVAILABLE

PAGE 17

PAGE 17

ISBN 978-1-55152-852-6
9 781551 528526

INDIGENOUS HISTORY / GRAPHIC NON-FICTION
HIS028000 / CGN007020 / HIS038000 / CGN007000
PUB MONTH: OCTOBER

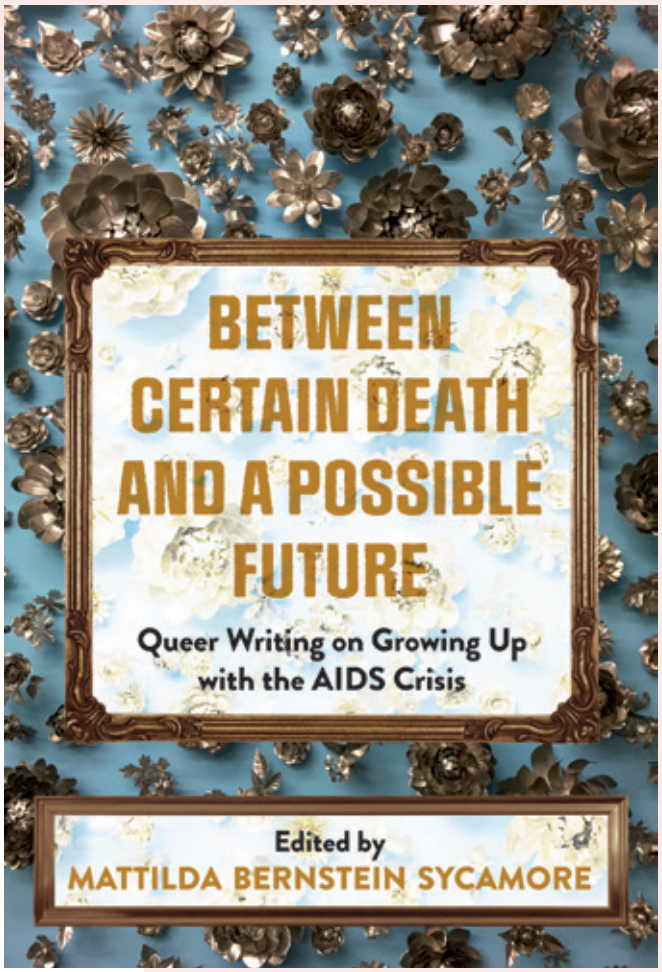
ISBN 978-1-55152-852-6
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-853-3
9 X 12 | 144 PP | PAPERBACK
$19.95 CAN / $17.95 USA

NEW RELEASE

Between Certain Death and a Possible Future

Queer Writing on Growing Up with the AIDS Crisis

EDITED BY MATTILDA BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE



An enthralling and incisive anthology of personal essays on the persistent impact of the AIDS crisis on queer lives.

Every queer person lives with the trauma of AIDS, and this plays out intergenerationally. Usually, we hear about two generations: The first, coming of age in the era of gay liberation, and then watching entire circles of friends die of a mysterious illness as the government did nothing to intervene. And now we hear about younger people, growing up with effective treatment and prevention available, unable to comprehend the magnitude of the loss. But there is another generation between these two, one that came of age in the midst of the epidemic, with the belief that desire intrinsically led to death, and internalized this trauma as part of becoming queer.

Between Certain Death and a Possible Future: Queer Writing on Growing Up with the AIDS Crisis offers crucial stories from this missing generation in AIDS literature and cultural politics. This wide-ranging anthology includes thirty-six personal essays on the ongoing and persistent impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on queer lives. Here you will find an expansive variety of perspectives on a specific generational story, exploring and exploding conventional wisdom, while also providing a necessary bridge between experiences. These essays respond, with eloquence and incisiveness, to the question: How do we reckon with the trauma that continues to this day and imagine a way out?

"An exciting and important collection that reconvenes community and brings our hidden feelings and experiences of HIV again to light and to consciousness."
—SARAH SCHULMAN, author of *Conflict Is Not Abuse* and *Let the Record Show*

"Formally an anthology, this book is actually a bildungsroman, unlike any you've read before—this one doesn't take coming of age for granted."
—VIVEK SHRAYA, author of *Death Threat* and *I'm Afraid of Men*

ISBN 978-1-55152-850-2
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-851-9
6 X 9 | 368 PP | PAPERBACK
$27.95 CAN / $22.95 USA
LGBTQ+ ANTHOLOGIES / SOCIOLOGY / HISTORY (MODERN)
SOC064000 / LCO010000 / HIS054000 / HIS037070
PUB MONTH: OCTOBER

MATTILDA BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE is the author of two non-fiction titles and three novels, and the editor of five non-fiction anthologies. Her latest title, *The Freezer Door*, was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, one of *Oprah Magazine*'s Best LGBTQ Books of 2020, and longlisted for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award. Her memoir, *The End of San Francisco*, won a Lambda Literary Award, and her novel *Sketchtasy* (page 17) was one of NPR's Best Books of 2018. Her anthology *Why Are Faggots So Afraid of Faggots?: Flaming Challenges to Masculinity, Objectification, and the Desire to Conform* was an American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book. She lives in Seattle.
mattildabernsteinsycamore.com

ALSO AVAILABLE

PAGE 17

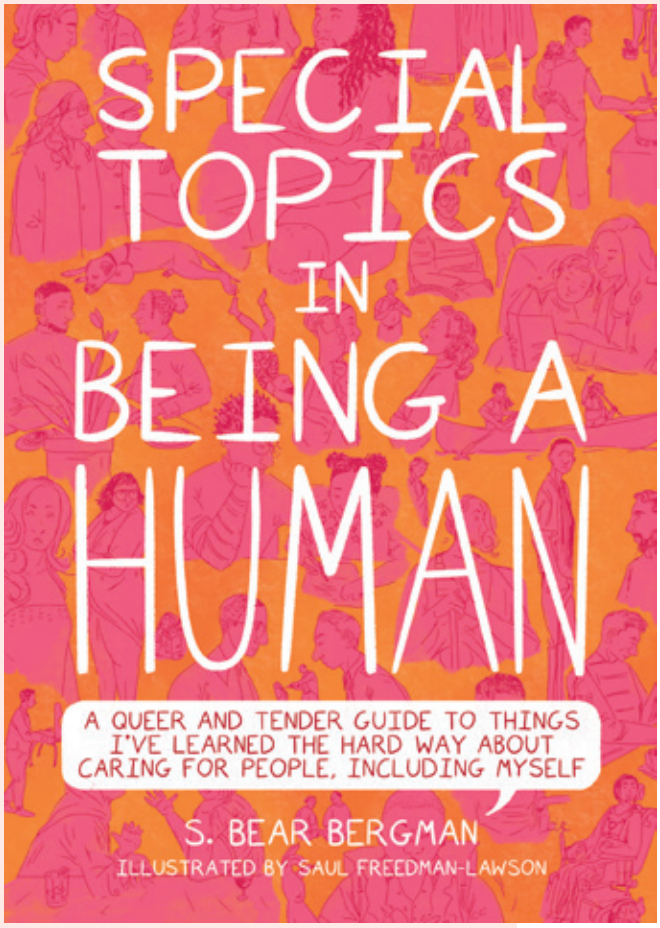
ISBN 978-1-55152-850-2
9 781551 528502

NEW RELEASE

Special Topics in Being a Human

A Queer and Tender Guide to Things I've Learned the Hard Way about Caring For People, Including Myself

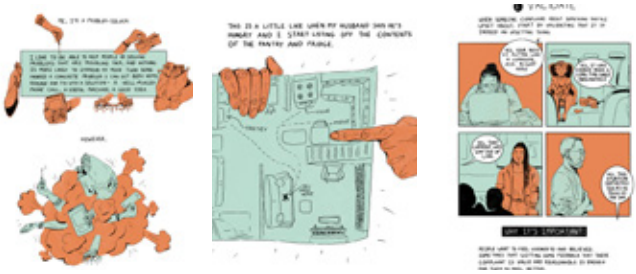
S. BEAR BERGMAN
ILLUSTRATED BY SAUL FREEDMAN-LAWSON



Celebrated trans author S. Bear Bergman's illustrated guide to practical advice for the modern age, filtered through a queer lens.

As an author, educator, and public speaker, S. Bear Bergman has documented his experience as, among other things, a trans parent, with wit and aplomb. He also writes the advice column "Asking Bear," in which he answers crucial questions about how best to make our collective way through the world.

Featuring disarming illustrations by Saul Freedman-Lawson, *Special Topics in Being a Human* elaborates on the premise of "Asking Bear": a gentle, witty, and insightful book of practical guidance for the modern age. It offers dad advice and Jewish bubbe wisdom, all filtered through a queer lens, to help you navigate some of the complexities of life—from making a big decision or giving a good apology, to getting someone's new name and pronouns right as quickly as possible, to gracefully handling a breakup. With warmth and candour, *Special Topics in Being a Human* calls out social inequities and injustices in traditional advice giving, validates your feelings, asks a lot of questions, and tries to help you be your best possible self with kindness, compassion, and humour.



S. BEAR BERGMAN is a writer, storyteller, activist, and the founder and publisher of Flamingo Rampant, which makes feminist, culturally diverse children's picture books about LGBT2SQ+ kids and families. He writes creative non-fiction for grown-ups, fiction for children, resolutely factual features for various publications, and the advice column "Asking Bear." His books include *The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You* and *Blood, Marriage, Wine & Glitter*, and he was the co-editor with Kate Bornstein of *Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation*.
sbearbergman.com

SAUL FREEDMAN-LAWSON is an illustrator, student, zine maker, babysitter, and educator. He makes art about queerness, transness, Judaism, and childhood. His comic *Naturally* is forthcoming from Old Growth Press. He likes to draw excitingly gendered people with big noses. This is his first full-length book.

ISBN 978-1-55152-854-0
9 781551 528540

LGBTQ+ STUDIES / GRAPHIC NON-FICTION / SOCIOLOGY
SOC064020 / SOC064000 / CGN009000 / FAM056000
PUB MONTH: OCTOBER

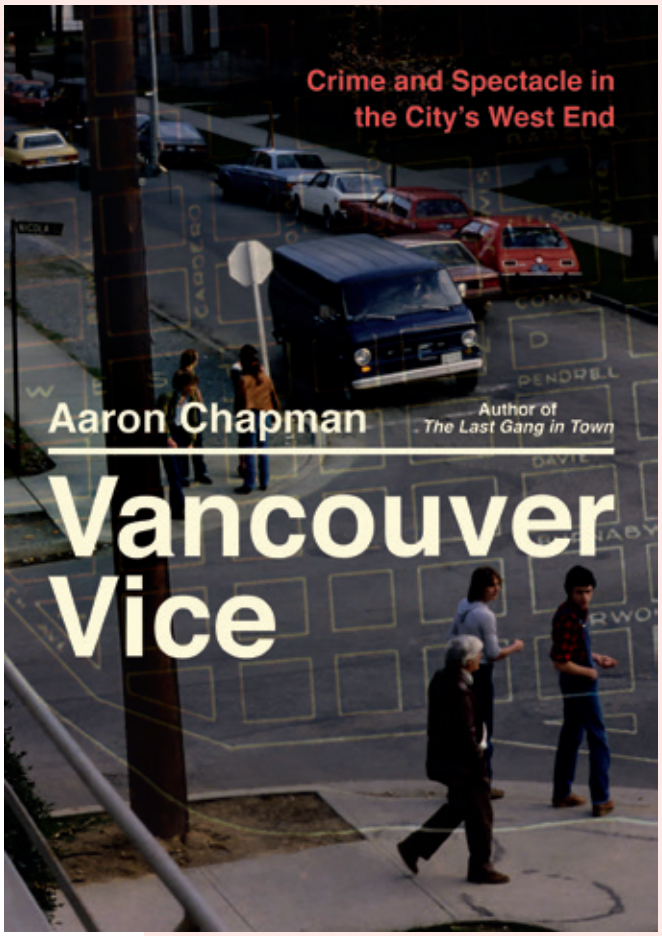
ISBN 978-1-55152-854-0
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-855-7
7 X 10 | 256 PP | PAPERBACK
$24.95 CAN / $21.95 USA

NEW RELEASE

Vancouver Vice

Crime and Spectacle in the City's West End

AARON CHAPMAN



Aaron Chapman's latest Vancouver book explores the gritty history of the West End in the 1970s and '80s.

In his latest opus, Aaron Chapman, the two-time Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award–winning author of such bestselling Vancouver-themed books as *Vancouver after Dark* and *The Last Gang in Town*, turns his gaze toward the city's tumultuous West End.

The late 1970s to early 1980s was a volatile period in the history of Vancouver, where broad social and cultural changes were afoot. This was perhaps most clearly evident in the West End, the well-known home to the city's tight-knit gay community that would soon be devastated by the AIDS epidemic. But the West End's tree-lined streets were also populated by sex workers, both female and male, who fought a well-publicized turf war with residents. This, combined with a rising crime rate, invited the closer attention of the Vancouver police, including its vice squad. But after a body was found dumped in nearby Stanley Park, it was discovered that the victim's high-profile connections reached far beyond the streets and back alleys of the West End, making for one of the most shocking investigations in Vancouver history, with secrets long held and never fully told until now.

Vancouver Vice reveals the captivating beating heart of a neighbourhood long before the arrival of gentrifying condo towers and coffee bars. Part murder mystery, part investigative exposé, and part cultural history, this book transports readers back to a grittier, more chaotic time in the city, when gambling dens prevailed, police listened in on wire taps, and hustlers plied their trade on street corners. With warm regard and a whiff of nostalgia, *Vancouver Vice* peers behind the curtain to examine how the city once indulged its vices, and at what cost.

AARON CHAPMAN is a writer, historian, and musician with a special interest in Vancouver's entertainment history. He is the author of *Vancouver after Dark: The Wild History of a City's Nightlife* (page 23) and *Live at the Commodore: The Story of Vancouver's Historic Commodore Ballroom*, which both won the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award (BC Book Prizes). His other books are *The Last Gang in Town* (page 22), the story of Vancouver's Clark Park Gang, and *Liquor, Lust, and the Law* (page 22), the story of Vancouver's Penthouse Nightclub, now available in a second edition. In 2020, he was elected as a member of the Royal Historical Society. He lives in Vancouver.

ALSO AVAILABLE

PAGE 23

PAGE 22

ISBN 978-1-55152-869-4
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-870-0
7 X 10 | 256 PP | PAPERBACK
$27.95 CAN / $23.95 USA

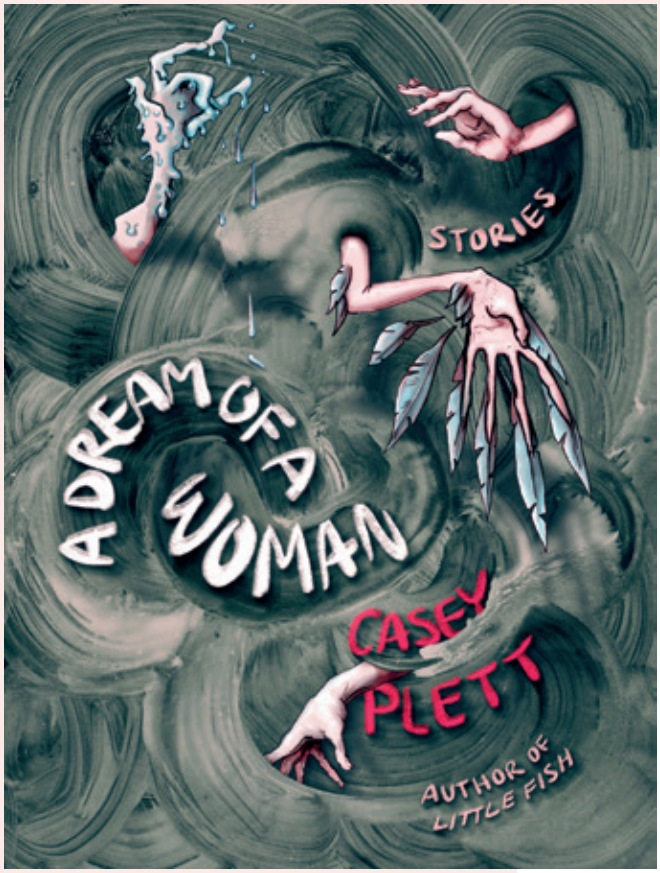
HISTORY (BC / CANADA) /
HISTORY (SOCIAL)
HIS006020 / HIS006000 / HIS054000
PUB MONTH: NOVEMBER (USA: APRIL 2022)

NEW RELEASE

A Dream of a Woman

Stories

CASEY PLETT



Award-winning novelist Casey Plett (*Little Fish*) returns with a poignant suite of stories that centre transgender women.

Casey Plett's 2018 novel *Little Fish* won a Lambda Literary Award, the Firecracker Award for fiction, and the Amazon Canada First Novel Award. Her latest work, *A Dream of a Woman*, is her first book of short stories since her seminal 2014 collection *A Safe Girl to Love*. Centring transgender women seeking stable adult lives, *A Dream of a Woman* finds quiet truths in prairie high-rises and New York warehouses, in freezing Canadian winters and drizzly Oregon days.

In "Hazel & Christopher," two childhood friends reconnect as adults after one of them has transitioned. In "Perfect Places," a woman grapples with undesirability as she navigates fetish play with a man. In "Couldn't Hear You Talk Anymore," the narrator reflects on past trauma and what might have been as she recalls tender moments with another trans woman.

An ethereal meditation on partnership, sex, addiction, romance, groundedness, and love, *A Dream of a Woman* buzzes with quiet intensity and the intimate complexities of being human.

PRAISE FOR *LITTLE FISH*:

"A powerful and important debut. Plett has masterfully painted her characters as both deeply complex and relatable."
—National Post

"A book that invites us to witness something so important, so complex, and so tender."
***—Quill and Quire* (starred review)**

CASEY PLETT is the author of the novel *Little Fish* (page 16) and the short story collection *A Safe Girl to Love*. She is the winner of the Amazon First Novel Award and the Firecracker Award for fiction, and two-time winner of the Lambda Literary Award for transgender fiction. She co-edited *Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy From Transgender Writers*, which won the ALA Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award, and she has written for the *New York Times*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Maclean's*, and *them*, among others.

ALSO AVAILABLE

PAGE 16

ISBN 978-1-55152-856-4

FICTION (LGBTQ+)
FIC073000 / FIC068000 / FIC029000 / FIC019000
PUB MONTH: SEPTEMBER

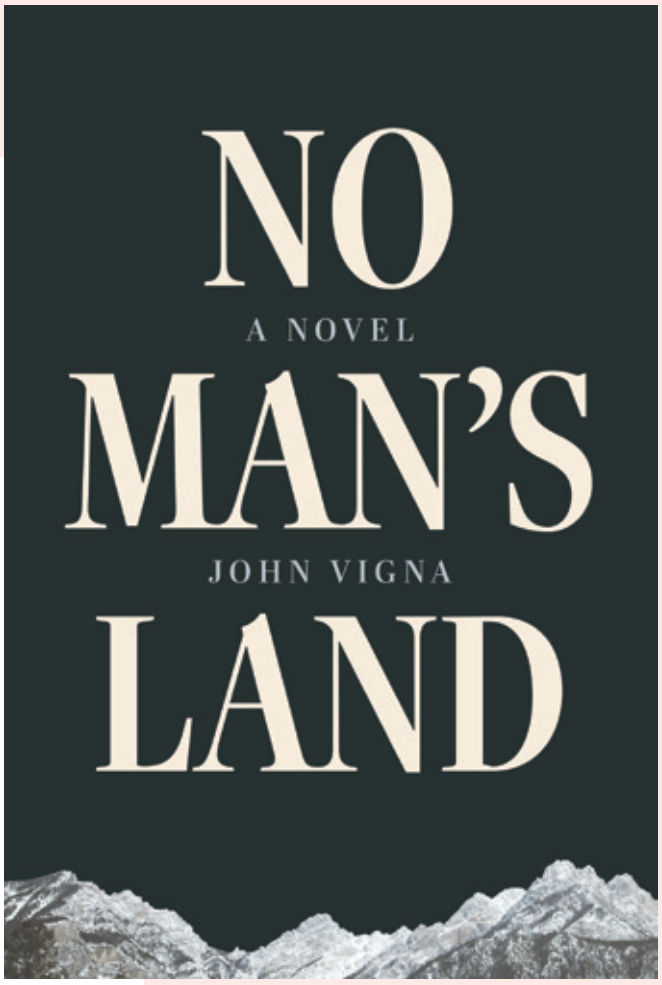
ISBN 978-1-55152-856-4
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-857-1
6 X 8 | 256 PP | PAPERBACK
$21.95 CAN / $18.95 USA

NEW RELEASE

No Man's Land

A Novel

JOHN VIGNA



A sprawling saga set in the Canadian wilderness of the late nineteenth century, about a teenaged girl named Davey, a charismatic fraudster, and the unbearable weight of fate.

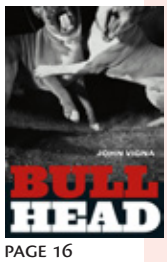
In this powerful, panoramic novel set in the late 1890s, in a sliver of rugged British Columbia wilderness, a fourteen-year-old girl named Davey—too young to be given a chance at creating her own life—finds herself raised by a group of eccentric, hostile misfits who rescued her as an infant on a bloody battlefield. She roams the countryside with them, led by Reverend Brown, a charismatic false prophet, hosting revivals for unsuspecting believers while lingering on the cusp of unimaginable events.

Davey tries to locate a semblance of peace in this harrowing, beautiful place, but what she finds instead is an astonishing panoply of falsehoods and depravity, a vicious world composed of murderers, thieves, and dancing bears. And in this unforgiving landscape of craggy beauty and singular resoluteness, she wages a fight for truth while traversing the delicate line between destiny and fate as she comes to understand the role Reverend Brown plays in her life.

No Man's Land is part classic coming-of-age story, part unwavering portrait of the bloody price of power, a raw and bold novel about the search for family, and a grand tale about an education in the pull of predestination and the responsibility of free will. Haunting on every page, filled with sorrow and awe, and stunning in the tonality of its vision, *No Man's Land* is an unflinching meditation on the legacy of violence, its senseless destructiveness, and the fearless dignity and tenderness required to rise above it.

JOHN VIGNA is an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia's School of Creative Writing. His first book of fiction, the story collection *Bull Head* (page 16), was published to critical acclaim in North America in 2012, and in France by Éditions Albin Michel in 2017. He lives in Vancouver.

ALSO AVAILABLE



PAGE 16

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E-ISBN 978-1-55152-867-0
6 X 9 | 336 PP | PAPERBACK
$22.95 CAN / $18.95 USA

FICTION
FIC019000 / FIC033000 /
FIC008000 / FIC090000
PUB MONTH: SEPTEMBER (USA: NOVEMBER)

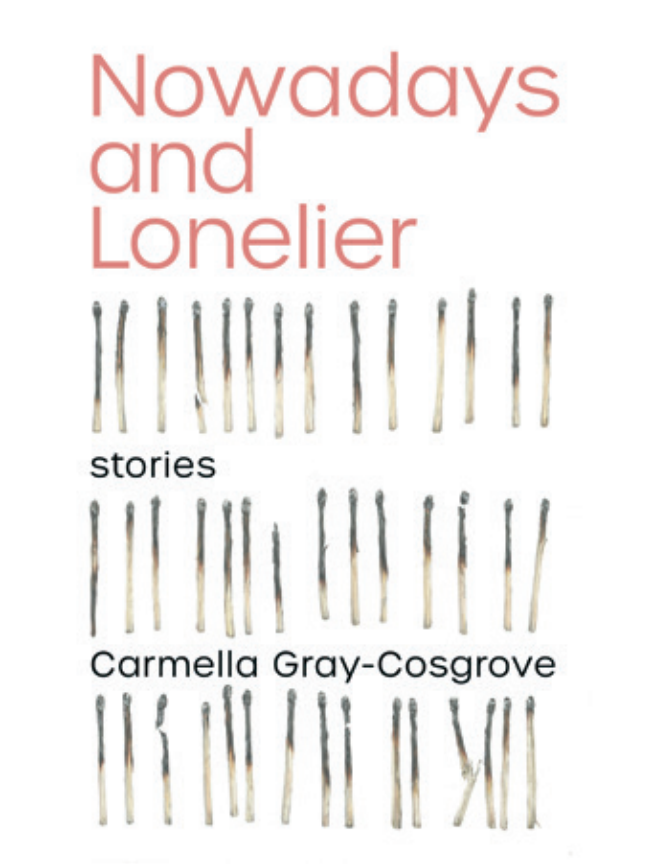
ISBN 978-1-55152-866-3
9 781551 528663

NEW RELEASE

Nowadays and Lonelier

Stories

CARMELLA GRAY-COSGROVE



A vibrant debut story collection about loneliness and love, privilege and poverty, addiction and isolation—the search for connection and meaning in a workaday world.

For fans of Heather O'Neill's *Daydreams of Angels*, Otessa Moshfegh's *Homesick for Another World*, and Carmen Maria Machado's *Her Body and Other Parties*, *Nowadays and Lonelier* features a cascade of characters seeking connection in the darkest alleyways and meaning in the mundane.

In these pages, a ballet dancer navigates complex family ties that are frayed by addiction, a young girl discovers sex and sexuality in the nineties in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, a lover sojourns in Egypt and exacts an unexpected revenge, and a barista and a painter weather an apartment fire in Montreal. The collection is concerned with the contrast experienced by working- and middle-class millennials, between access to education and art compared to a relative lack of access to secure jobs and housing—and how these conditions leave many straddling a world where mental health, addictions, and sex work are daily realities as they try to carve out space for themselves in times that are increasingly alienating.

Nowadays and Lonelier, Carmella Gray-Cosgrove's debut story collection, features vivid portraits of unsure yet hopeful people struggling to find a good life in a hard world.

CARMELLA GRAY-COSGROVE was raised in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples and lives in St. John's, on Ktaqmkuk, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq and the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, with her partner and their child. Her fiction has appeared in *Prism*, *Broken Pencil*, *Freefall Magazine*, the *Antigonish Review*, and elsewhere. *Nowadays and Lonelier* was shortlisted for the NLCU Fresh Fish Award for Emerging Writers. She was the 2020 writer in residence for *Riddle Fence Magazine*. Carmella holds a master's degree in geography from Memorial University and was an F.A. Aldrich Fellow.

ISBN 978-1-55152-871-7
9 781551 528717

FICTION
FIC019000 / FIC029000 / FIC044000
PUB MONTH: SEPTEMBER (USA: APRIL 2022)

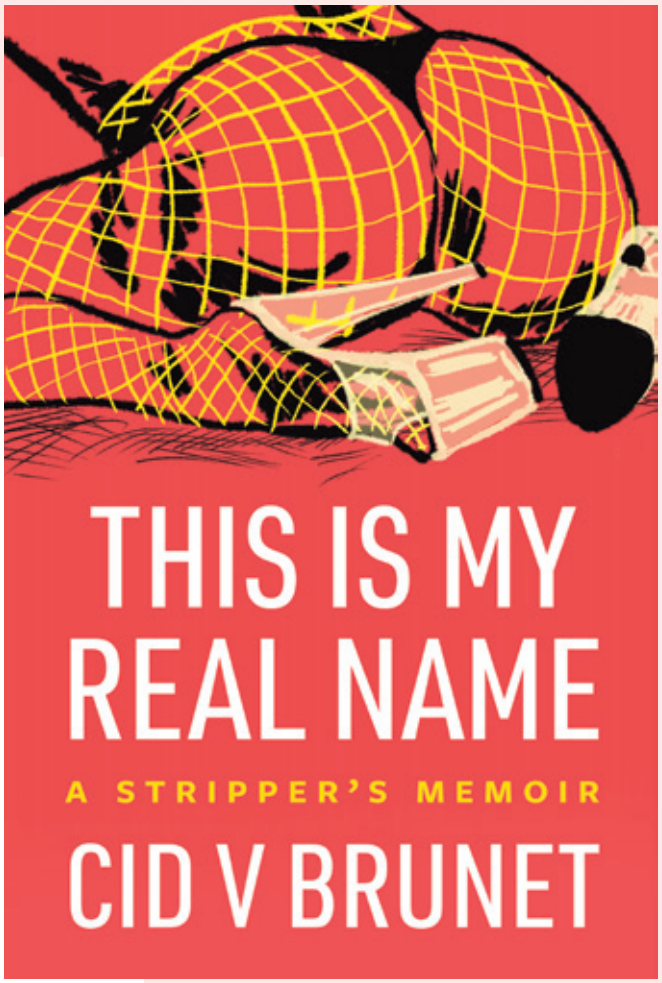
ISBN 978-1-55152-871-7
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-872-4
6 X 8 | 192 PP | PAPERBACK
$19.95 CAN / $16.95 USA

NEW RELEASE

This Is My Real Name

A Stripper's Memoir

CID V BRUNET



The frank and bracing memoir of a woman who spent ten years as a stripper.

This Is My Real Name is the memoir of Cid V Brunet, who spent ten years working as a dancer at strip clubs, using the name Michelle. From her very first lap dance in a small-town bar to her work at high-end clubs, Michelle learns she must follow the unspoken rules that will allow her to succeed in the competitive industry. Along the way, she and her co-workers encounter compelling clients and unreasonable bosses and navigate their own relationships to drugs and alcohol. Michelle and her friends rely on each other's camaraderie and strength in an industry that can be both toxic and deeply rewarding.

Intensely personal, *This Is My Real Name* demystifies stripping as a career with great respect and candour, while at the same time exploring the complex, sex-positive relationships (queer and otherwise) that make it meaningful.

"Cid V Brunet's *This Is My Real Name* is electric, intelligent, and haunting. Her narrator's voice is by turns bold and vulnerable, navigating the experience of sex work through shrewd observational powers. I found the writing graceful and jarringly honest."
—SHASHI BHAT, author of *The Family Took Shape*

"With bare-hearted clarity, *This Is My Real Name* is a mind-bending trip into a world you thought you knew."
—MERRILY WEISBORD, author of *The Love Queen of Malabar: Memoir of a Friendship with Kamala Das*

CID V BRUNET spent their twenties stripping in clubs across Canada. They received a degree in creative writing from Douglas College and participated in the Quebec Writers' Federation mentorship program, where they wrote their first book, *This Is My Real Name*. Cid lives in Montreal.

ISBN 978-1-55152-858-8
E-ISBN 978-1-55152-859-5
6 X 9 | 320 PP | PAPERBACK
$22.95 CAN / $19.95 USA

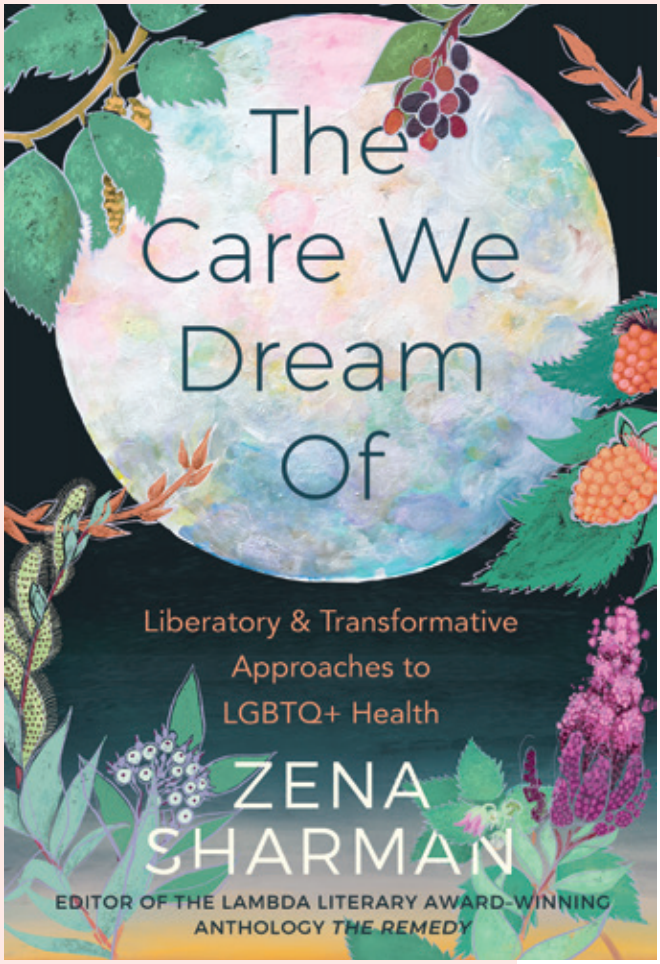
LGBTQ+ NON-FICTION / GENDER STUDIES / BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR
SOC028000 / BIO022000 / SOC017000 / SOC059000
PUB MONTH: NOVEMBER

NEW RELEASE

The Care We Dream Of

Liberatory & Transformative Approaches to LGBTQ+ Health

ZENA SHARMAN



The follow-up to the Lambda Literary Award–winning anthology *The Remedy*: new ways of imagining what LGBTQ+ health care should look like.

What if you could trust in getting the health care you need in ways that felt good and helped you thrive? What if the health system honoured and valued queer and trans people's lives, bodies, and expertise? What if LGBTQ+ communities led and organized our own health care as a form of mutual aid? What if every aspect of our health care was rooted in a commitment to our healing, pleasure, and liberation?

LGBTQ+ health care doesn't look like this today, but it could. This is the care we dream of.

Through a series of essays (by the author and others), interviews, and poems, this book by the editor of the Lambda Literary Award–winning anthology *The Remedy* offers possibilities—grounded in historical examples, present-day experiments, and dreams of the future—for more liberatory and transformative approaches to LGBTQ+ health and healing. It challenges readers to think differently about LGBTQ+ health and asks what it would look like if our health care were rooted in a commitment to the flourishing and liberation of all LGBTQ+ people. This book is a calling out, a calling in, and a call to action. It is a spell of healing and transformation, rooted in love.

ZENA SHARMAN is a writer, speaker, strategist, and LGBTQ+ health advocate. She's the editor of two books, including the Lambda Literary award–winning anthology *The Remedy: Queer and Trans Voices on Health and Health Care* (page 21). An engaging speaker, Zena brings her passion for LGBTQ+ health to audiences of health care providers and students across North America.

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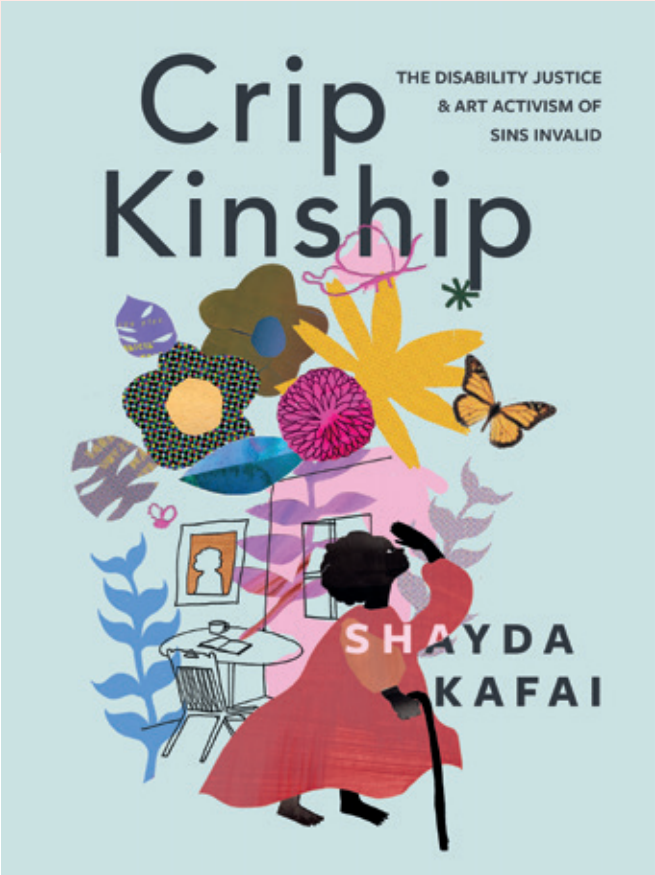
NEW RELEASE

Crip Kinship

The Disability Justice & Art Activism of Sins Invalid

SHAYDA KAFAI



The remarkable story of Sins Invalid, a performance project that centres queer disability justice.

In recent years, disability activism has come into its own as a vital and necessary means to acknowledge the power and resilience of the disabled community, and to call out ableist culture wherever it appears.

Crip Kinship explores the art activism of Sins Invalid, a San Francisco Bay Area–based performance project, and its radical imaginings of what disabled, queer, trans, and gender-nonconforming bodyminds of colour can do: how they can rewrite oppression, and how they can gift us with transformational lessons for our collective survival.

Grounded in the disability justice framework, *Crip Kinship* investigates the revolutionary survival teachings that disabled, queer of colour community offers to all our bodyminds. From their focus on crip beauty and sexuality to manifesting digital kinship networks and crip-centric liberated zones, Sins Invalid empowers us and moves us toward generating our collective liberation from our bodyminds outward.

"As a long-time admirer of Sins Invalid, I am grateful for Dr Shayda Kafai's *Crip Kinship: The Disability Justice & Art Activism of Sins Invalid*. Crip wisdom and disability justice are what we need right now. A must-read for anyone who wants to understand the origins of disability justice."
—ALICE WONG, editor of *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*

"This book invites a new generation through that portal of disability justice, to feel the powerful nature of us in our miraculous biodiversity and symbiosis, the love ethic in practice, the creative reclamation of our dignity, and the future that will unfold from our orgasmic yes."
—ADRIENNE MAREE BROWN, author of *We Will Not Cancel Us: And Other Dreams of Transformative Justive*

SHAYDA KAFAI is an assistant professor of gender and sexuality studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. As a queer, Mad femme of colour, she commits to enacting the many ways we can reclaim our bodyminds from intersecting systems of oppression. She lives in Pomona, California, with her wife, Amy.

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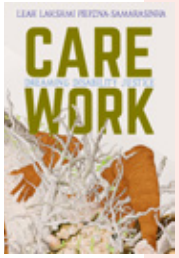

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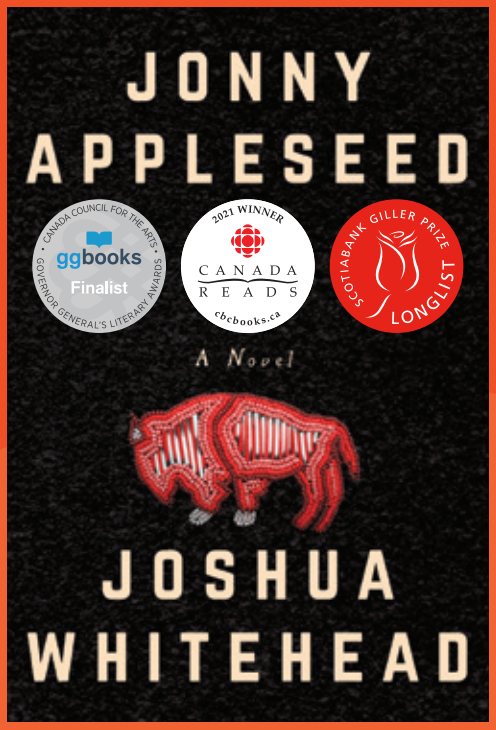

Jonny Appleseed

JOSHUA WHITEHEAD

Winner, Lambda Literary Award
Finalist, Governor General's Literary Award
Longlist, Scotiabank Giller Prize

This year's *Canada Reads* winner is a tour-de-force novel about Jonny, a Two-Spirit Indigiqueer and proud NDN glitter princess trying to find ways to live, love, and survive in the big city of Winnipeg. His life is upended when he receives news of his stepfather's passing back on the rez; he has one week before he must return to his home—and his former life—to attend the funeral. What transpires is like a fevered dream: stories of love, trauma, sex, kinship, ambition, and heartbreaking recollections of his beloved kokum. *Jonny Appleseed* is a unique, shattering vision of Indigenous life, full of grit, glitter, and dreams.

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2021 *CANADA READS* RUNNER-UP!

Butter Honey Pig Bread

FRANCESCA EKWUYASI

Longlist, Scotiabank Giller Prize
Finalist, Lambda Literary Award

This year's *Canada Reads* runner-up is a sweeping intergenerational saga that tells the story of three Nigerian women: Kambiranachi and her twin daughters, Kehinde and Taiye, all of them torn apart by a childhood trauma that fractures the family in seemingly irreparable ways. Incandescent and evocative, *Butter Honey Pig Bread* is a tale of choices and their consequences, of motherhood, of the malleable line between the spirit and the mind, of queer love, of friendship, faith, and above all, family.

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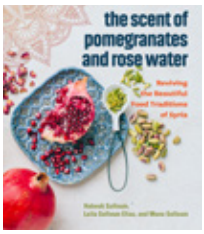

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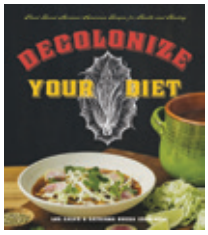

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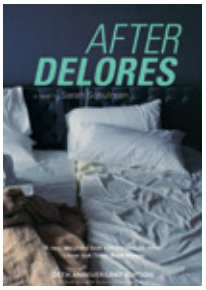

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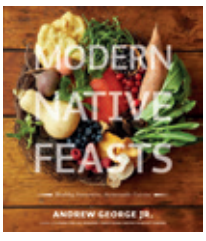

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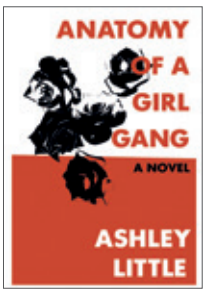

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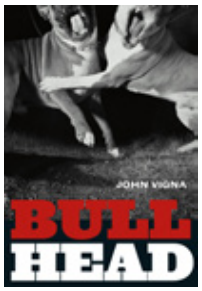

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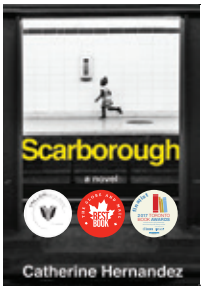

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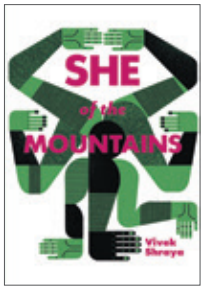

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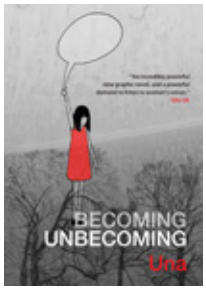

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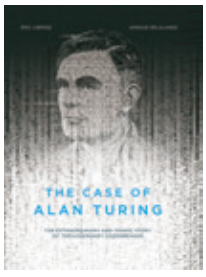

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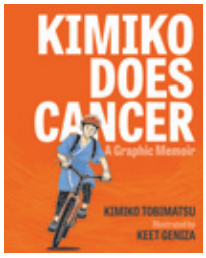

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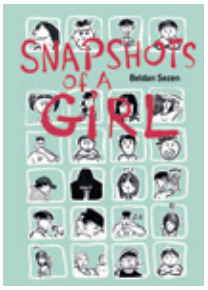

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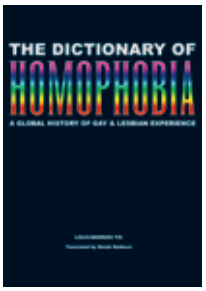

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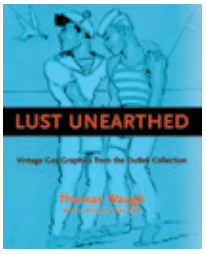

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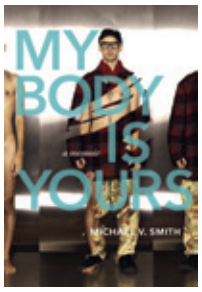

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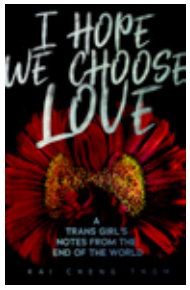

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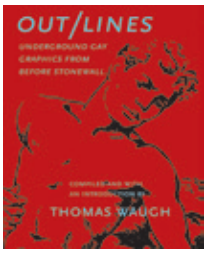

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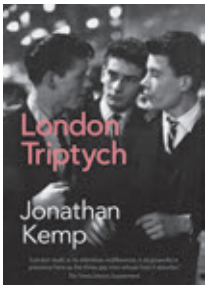

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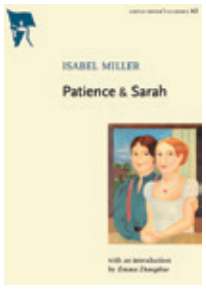

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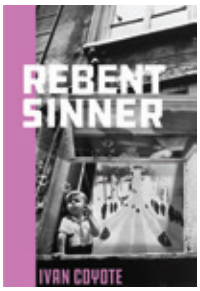

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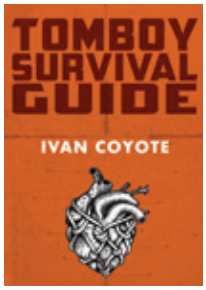

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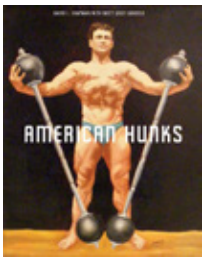

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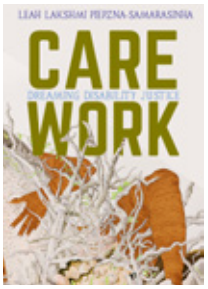

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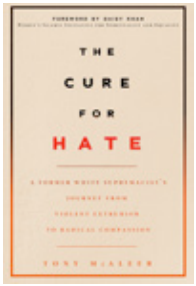

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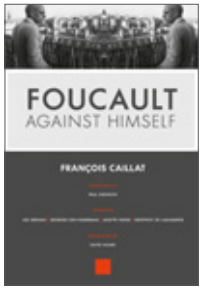

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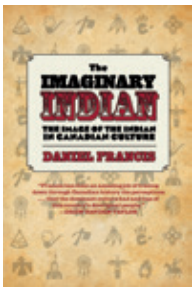

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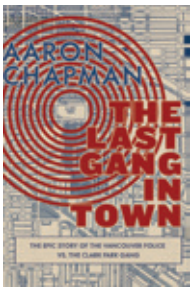

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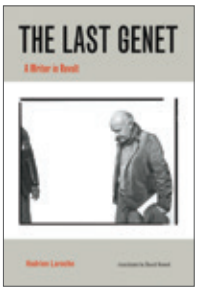

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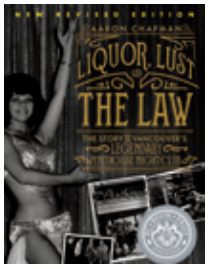

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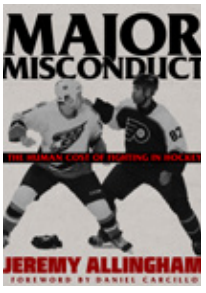

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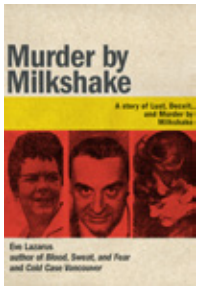

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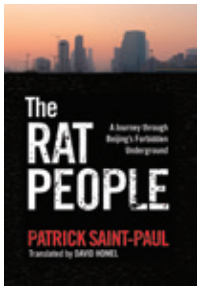

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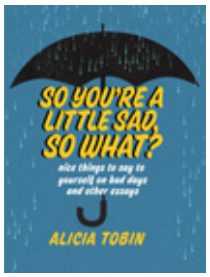

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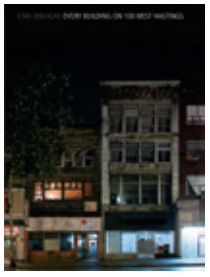

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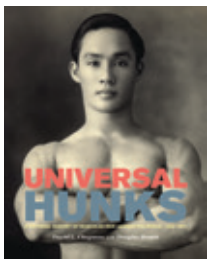

Universal Hunks

DAVID L. CHAPMAN & DOUGLAS BROWN

A lively, wide-ranging visual history of muscular men from around the world. See also *American Hunks* (pg. 21) and *Venus with Biceps* (this page).

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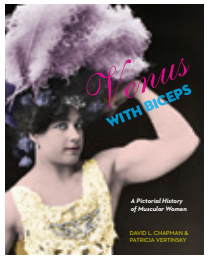

Venus with Biceps

DAVID L. CHAPMAN & PATRICIA VERTINSKY

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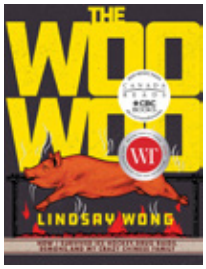

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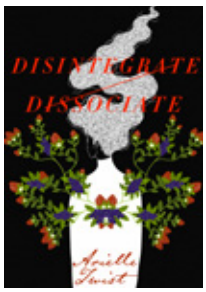

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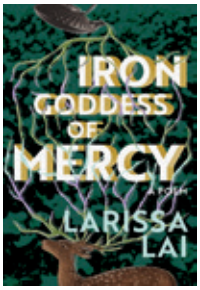

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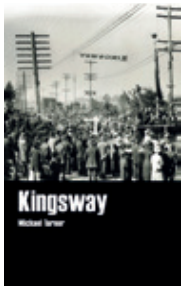

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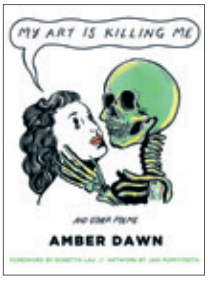

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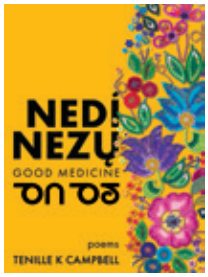

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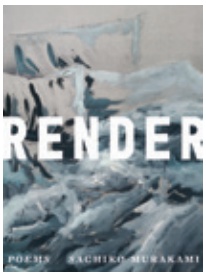

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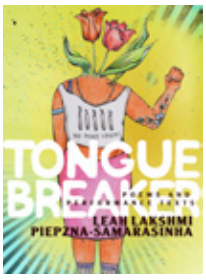

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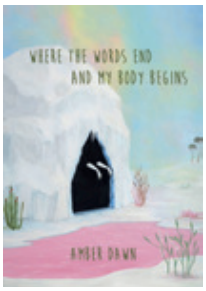

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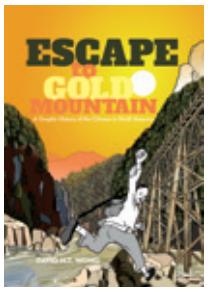

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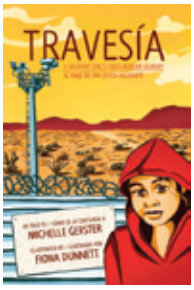

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